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Executive Director



February 13, 2025

Canal Place Preservation & Development Authority  
Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget  
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
Education, Business, & Administration Subcommittee  
The Honorable Nancy J. King, Chair

House Appropriations Committee  
Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee  
The Honorable Courtney Watson, Chair

February 13, 2025

Presented By:  
Deidra L. Ritchie, CPPDA Executive Director

On the Proposed Budget of the Canal Place Preservation & Development Authority (CPPDA) for the Fiscal Year 2026

The CPPDA's responses to questions brought to our attention by Samuel Quest in the Analysis of the FY 2026 Maryland Executive Budget, prepared February 2025.

What is the current status of the River Park project and have there been any major developments in recent months?

- a. Specifically, what is the current status of project design development and the permitting for the dam removal? Has sediment testing begun?

**Since the FY 2025 Budget Testimony, there has been progress. In May of 2024, EcoLogix was hired as the Project Management Team for the River Park project. Their services were utilized to complete the capital budget process for the land-based amenities portion of the project, which includes ADA trails and trail connections into West Virginia, parking, signage, etc. They also wrote the RFP for the sediment testing, and assisted with several grant applications for**

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project marketing, and dam removal. The RFP for the land-based amenities of the park is out to bid, with the award to be granted in March. It is anticipated the engineering and design for the trials and parking will be completed in September 2025. An RFP for the sediment testing is being rebid. An existing contract was recently amended to include the installation of water loggers into areas above and below the dam, and within Wills Creek, where the flood control is located. The water loggers will be installed in February of 2025. These loggers have to remain in place for a year and be monitored periodically in order to get an accurate reading of the river levels. Also, completed in January of 2025, was the Preliminary Engineering Report. This report was necessary to provide cost estimates and phases necessary to construct the park, and to provide the Department of Budget Management the details required for their capital project review process.

b. If possible, can you provide a list of all the non-state funding for the project that has been raised to date?

**Please see all our funding to date listed below.**

| <b>River Park Project Funding</b>                                     |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>Funding Received</b>   |                      |
| <b>Funds Expended</b>   |                      |
| River Park Implementation Plan MHAA (State Grant)                     | 30,000.00            |
| ARC (Federal Grant)   | 28,810.00            |
| CPPDA (state Funds)   | 1,190.00             |
| River Park Boundary Survey/Property Owner ID/Project Consultant-MHAA  | 49,500.00            |
| Allegany County/City of Cumberland 30% Preliminary Engineering Report | 95,000.00            |
| <b>Total Funds Expended</b>   | <b>204,500.00</b>    |
| <b>Unencumbered Funds</b>   |                      |
| Allegany County-Water Loggers (County-city)                           | 30,000.00            |
| On-Grade Trails/Parking - Senate Earmark (Federal)                    | 6,000,000.00         |
| Senate Earmark River Remediation (Federal)                            | 500,000.00           |
| MD Tourism Grant-Sediment Testing (Federal)                           | 250,000.00           |
| Allegany County-Engineering/Design Trails (Federal)                   | 225,000.00           |
| Sediment Testing-MHAA (state)   | 90,000.00            |
| River Park Donation Account (private)                                 | 7,654.69             |
| ARC River Park Marketing (Federal)                                    | 15,500.00            |
| ARC Trail Construction, Design (Federal)                              | 1,425,000.00         |
| State of MD Capital Budget  | 1,500,000.00         |
| <b>Total Unencumbered Funds</b>                                       | <b>10,043,154.69</b> |

**Total Received to Date** 10,247,654.69

**Total River Park Project Cost (estimated)** \$28,500,000.00

What is the status of the completion of fiscal 2022 and 2023 audits by an outside vendor, that was noted in last year's analysis?

**The CPPDA audits for FY 22/23 are underway, and we are currently working with the auditors towards completion. In addition, we are also completing a legislative audit from OLS.**

What are the reasons for the \$25,000 increase in Object 8 contractual services in the fiscal 2026 allowance that are described as being for janitorial and maintenance work?

**There are two reasons for the increase: 1) the increase was to more fully cover the contract that Canal Place has entered into for completing the maintenance and janitorial contract for Canal Place, and 2) the increased costs are due to wages, taxes, and insurance for our maintenance contractor to maintain and protect his employees.**

**In previous years this object code was only partially covered by General Funds and we very much appreciate that this necessary contract be covered to this level as it allows us to maintain the property and grounds to the fullest extent possible.**